

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 252269 TOSEC 160286

43

ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /024 R

66607

DRAFTED BY: EUR/WE:MLDURKEE:NLS

APPROVED BY: EUR: MR HARTMAN

S/S-O: DMACK

----- 105705

O 231758Z OCT 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 252269 TOSEC 160286

FOL REPEAT OF MADRID 7375 TO SECSTATE OCT 23

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7375

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PRESSURES FOR TRANSFER OF POWER TO JUAN CARLOS

REF: MADRID 7327

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO ONE WELL-INFORMED POLITICIAN, FRANCO'S FAMILY IS WITHHOLDING TRUTH ABOUT HIS REAL CONDITION FROM HIM IN EFFORT TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF POWER.

ARIAS AND CABINET, SUPPORTED BY KEY MILITARY LEADERS, ARE DETERMINED, IN HIS VIEW, TO CONVINCE FRANCO TO RESIGN RATHER THAN SEEK HIS REMOVAL BY COMPLICATED VONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURE BY DECLARING HIM INCAPACITATED. GOVT LEADERS AND ESTABLISHMENT REPORTEDLY

BELIEVE THAT FRANCO'S CONDITION IS TERMINAL AND TRANSFER OF POWER MUST TAKE PLACE, PREFERABLY WITH FRANCO'S OWN BLESSING. END SUMMARY

1. FORMER MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF THE REALM AND CURRENT KEY PROMOTOR OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, ALFONSO OSORIO, TOLD EMBOFF OCT 22 THAT ONE OF FRANCO'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 252269 TOSEC 160286

PHYSICIANS HAD INFORMED HIM THAT CAUDILLO HAD SUFFERED

THREE HEART ATTACKS BETWEEN OCT 16 AND 21. IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT HE WOULD SUFFER OTHER INTERMITTENT ATTACKS, ONE OF WHICH WOULD BE FATAL. FRANCO, MEANWHILE, WAS UNAWARE OF HIS REAL CONDITION BECAUSE HIS FAMILY WAS WITHHOLDING MEDICAL REPORTS FROM HIM, LEAVING HIM WITH IMPRESSION THAT HE MERELY HAD SEVERE FLU ATTACK. FRANCO, THEREFORE, THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS QUITE NORMAL. WHEN ARIAS SUGGESTED TO HIM A TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF POWER OCT 21, HE REACTED SHARPLY TO IDEA, SAYING THAT HE INTENDED TO CHAIR REGULAR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING OCT 24./

2. OSORIO, LIKE MANY OTHERS, BLAMED THE MARQUES DE VILLAVERDE, THE DOCTOR SON-IN-LAW, FOR FAMILY'S ATTITUDE. THE MARQUES' INFLUENCE IN THE FAMILY AND WITH HIS FATHER-IN-LAW HAS INCREASED GREATLY SINCE HIS ILLNESS LAST SUMMER WHEN VILLAVERDE "TOOK CHARGE" OF THE SEARCH FOR SPECIALIST MEDICAL ATTENTION. FRANCO FEELS BEHOLDEN TO HIM. THE FAMILY THEREFORE, HAVE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF CONTROLLING ACCESS TO FRANCO AND, IN THE NAME OF "HUMANITARIAN CONCERN", KEEPING THE TRUTH FROM HIM.

3. ACCORDING TO OSORIO, THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO JUAN CARLOS WAS INEVITABLE, BUT IT WAS UNCLEAR HOW SOON THIS COULD BE DONE. JUAN CARLOS HAD ALREADY INDICATED HIS REFUSAL TO ACCEPT EITHER A TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ALL POWERS OR DEFINITIVE TRANSFER OF SOME POWERS; HE WOULD ONLY ACCEPT AN UNLIMITED TRANSFER OF ALL POWERS. THE ROUTE OF DECLARING FRANCO INCAPACITATED WOULD NOT BE FOLLOWED; ALTHOUGH TWO-THIRDS OF THE CABINET AND THE COUNCIL OF THE REALITY APPROVE THE MEASURE TODAY, THE "CORTES" WHICH IS DOMINATED BY RIGHT-WING, WOULD BLOCK IT. MOREOVER, THIS PROCEDURE WOULD BE AN IGNOMINIOUS END FOR FRANCO WHICH WOULD NOT SERVE INTERESTS EVEN OF THOSE MOST INTERESTED IN EVOLUTIONARY CHANGE. IT WAS UP TO ARIAS AND THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP TO PERSUADE FRANCO IT WAS IN THE COUNTRY'S AND HIS OWN INTEREST TO RELINQUISH POWER. OSORIO BELIEVES THAT ARIAS, SUPPORTED BY KEY MILITARY LEADERS, WILL PRESS HARD IN COMING DAYS TO BRING FRANCO AROUND. ARIAS IS HANDICAPPED, HOWEVER, BY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 252269 TOSEC 160286

INCREASING PRESSURES FOR HIS OWN RESIGNATION FROM RIGHT-WING FORCES WHICH ARE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO ANY PREMATURE TRANSFER OF POWERS. THESE ELEMENTS HAVE ACCESS TO FRANCO THROUGH HIS FAMILY.

4. ARIAS HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ALL THE PRINCIPALS. PRIOR TO HIS 40-MINUTE MEETING WITH FRANCO OCT 21 HE HAD LUNCHEONED WITH THE CAUTIOUS, CONSERVATIVE "CORTES" PRESIDENT

VALCARCEL, AND TALKED WITH JUAN CARLOS. THE SAME DAY THE HIGH
COUNCIL OF THE ARMY (ALL CAPTAIN GENERALS, CHIEF OF THE
HIGH GENERAL STAFF, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL GUARD, ARMY
WAR COLLEGE HEAD, AND SEC GEN IN MINISTRY OF ARMY) HELD A
MEETING IN MADRID, COVERING THE SAHARAN ISSUE, AND
FRANCO'S CONDITION.
STABLER UNQTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, HEALTH, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE252269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/WE:MLDURKEE:NLS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750368-1066
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751027/aaaaayfq.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 7327
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESSURES FOR TRANSFER OF POWER TO JUAN CARLOS
TAGS: PINT, SP, (FRANCO, FRANCISCO)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006